



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

HOWREY LLP
C/O IP DOCKETING DEPARTMENT
2941 FAIRVIEW PARK DR, SUITE 200
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042-2924

COPY MAILED

JUN 11 2008

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Karel Van Den Berg
Application No. 09/642,828
Filed: August 22, 2000
Attorney Docket No. 04132.0122.NPUS00

ON PETITION

This is a decision in response to the petition, filed February 28, 2008, to revive the above-identified application under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b).

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action mailed December 12, 2006, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extension of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) was obtained. Accordingly, the application became abandoned on March 13, 2007. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on June 28, 2007. On February 28, 2008, the present petition was filed.

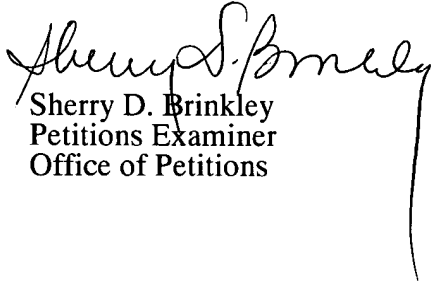
The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of amendment; (2) the petition fee of \$1,540; and (3) an adequate statement of unintentional delay¹.

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum extendable period for reply. See *In re Application of S.*, 8 USPQ2d 1630, 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1988). Since the \$1,050 extension of time fee submitted with the petition on December 12, 2007 was subsequent to the maximum extendable period for reply, this fee is unnecessary and will be credited to petitioner's deposit account.

The application is being referred to Technology Center AU 3641 for appropriate action by the Examiner in the normal course of business on the amendment received February 28, 2008.

¹ 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) requires a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. While it is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and *Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure*; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204. Inquiries relating to further prosecution should be directed to the Technology Center.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherry D. Brinkley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions